To Dr S.G. Morton
Philadelphia
1837
Feb 28

Dr S Morton Esq.

Dear Sir

A long time has elapsed since I, a Stranger on this side of the Atlantic, received so much Kindness from You, whilst I promised to return by communicating to You the geological and other observations which I hoped to be able to make in the far West. I never forgot, but always delayed fulfilling this promise, believing my investigations too unimportant and not being able to write Your Language sufficiently well. But You put me under new obligations by sending me Your interesting work on the Aboriginal remains of the Caucasian Group of the United States. Through Dr Brown for whom the Work was intended I learned how highly you esteemed further the new Work; you are publishing now, the Crania Americanorum, but Dr Brown's letter suggesting this to me not before I had left Arkansaw, where I found there some thing could have been done and been on a geological and mineralogical expedition. The only thing therefore that might be of some interest to You is a collection of geological specimens that I made on the Ouachita. I present through you to the Academy of Natural Sciences. It is only to day that I heard of the sudden departure of Mr. Th. Kraft to the East who offered me to be the bearer of the charge himself with this small box, or I would have made a more complete collection for your Academy. At some other time I shall be able to send you more geological specimens, and a collection of plants, western plants, as botany is that study of Natural History which I cherish most. Individual circumstances have now got an additional stimulus by the formation of the Western Academy of Natural Sciences of which no doubt Dr Brown has told you I am myself most warmly devoted to the study of Nature and so I hope to be able to contribute in future more perhaps to your collections as well as to your Journal.

Excuse the haste and imperfect composition of this, and believe me

Dear Sir,

Your most obt Servt

J Engelmann MD

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